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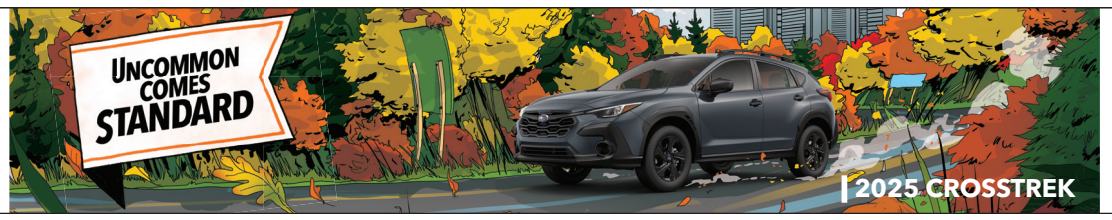

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Oh Canada!
Local singer dazzles crowds at Blue Jays games on page 4

Gifts for a good cause
How you can support Run for the Cure, even if you aren't a runner on page 8

Mush magic
A look into this year's mushroom season on page 16

The northern lights put on a brilliant show across Haliburton County last week. /Photo captured by Cody Evans.

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Yellow

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

MANY DECADES back, along a Scarborough sidewalk near the Bluffs, my dad would walk me home from school. There was only one sort of kindergarten back then, and students simply had to be five years old by September. Parents usually got to choose either a morning or afternoon half-day. We napped after healthy snacks, and brought our own blankets on which we usually faked sleep. Some of us were authentically exhausted, however, after so much singing, counting and sandbox.

Dad and I ambled together like scholars, my hand needing his, both of us looking downwards more than up. I kept double-checking my beloved black-white saddle shoes. They'd been much-scuffed from all my 'expeditions', and I thrummed with amazement that Mum had dabbed chalky polish over their dents and scratches with a magic new dipping wand from Woolworth's. Good as new! My feet felt instantly stronger and faster, encouraging my skinny legs to run up slides, climb trees instead of just talking to them, and stand atop schoolyard swings to get even closer to the clouds.

Dad was a very good listener. He never interrupted, nor yelled to be heard. He believed me, so I wouldn't lie. I'd recount everything that had happened to me each morning. I don't recall why he was able to pick me up on weekdays. He worked nearby, so perhaps he'd drive home for a proper lunch (as I remember him from England), and attach me to his routine. We'd both show up for beans on butter-drenched toast, or peppered tomato soup with cheddar, or soft-boiled eggs with 'soldiers'. It was Mum's effort to fatten me up. It worked eventually. But food was hardly on my five-year-old mind. I wanted mostly to think, ask, imagine and chat. Walking with Dad gave both of us a regular opportunity to tackle the world's major problems. Like what was my very most favourite colour.

We'd been making kites that morning in kindergarten. As was already my bizarre habit, I'd waited until all classmates had selected their preferred string out of two bright options: red or yellow. After a flurry of lineups and scissors, only yellow string remained. So be it. Mrs. Harper knotted some to my kite since she did a better job. And thus I joined the passive minority, although I'd previously targeted the red. I needed extra Septembers to ultimately introduce my louder 'outdoor voice'.

As I described all this detail to my exquisitely patient dad, he revealed that yellow was actually his all-time personal favourite. I pondered this for a minute, but carried on liking red quite a bit more.

A banal story, perhaps. But lately, I unexpectedly digress. I'm truly preferring the ochres, mustards and goldenrods of autumn, especially against an indigo sky. I'm also thinking of my dad again, and about how I want to be in the world. Choices seem to be changeable. Habits, attitudes, priorities too. Growing never stops. And time spent with gentle people, listening and loving, is supernally priceless.

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How to be an excellent shotgunner

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

THE OTHER day I watched an experienced shooter miss an easy shot at a clay pigeon. I was surprised – but not because he missed. It was more due to what he said afterwards. For those words made me lose faith in him as a shotgunner.

He looked me straight in the eye and said, "I have no excuse."

I wanted to wash his mouth out with soap.

You see, a good shotgunner always has an excuse.

If you don't have a repertoire of good excuses, how could you possibly leave the sporting clays range and step into the grouse woods or the duck blind?

Trust me. It's just not doable.

Imagine if every time that shooter missed a grouse or woodcock, he just looked at the other hunters and said, "I have no excuse."

Talk about selfish. At the very least, the dog who worked so hard to find and put up the bird deserves better than that.

Would it have hurt him to say something like, "I'm trying these new shells, and I have a strong suspicion that they filled them with deformed shot. Did you see all my birdshot swerve to the left at the last second? There's probably a grouse sympathizer working in the assembly line…"

Of course, it wouldn't hurt. Moreover, it would buoy the morale of everyone in the hunting party. For, if we all pretend to accept that – rather than the fact that he clearly pulled the trigger with both eyes closed – as a rational explanation as to why the person missed, we are all given hope.

This simple act of kindness – the missing of an easy shot combined with the outrageous excuse why – means we can all breathe a little easier when we also miss – so long as we have a good excuse of our own in the chamber.

Don't kid yourself; this is the true mark of an excellent shotgunner.

No one, especially your hunting buddies, remembers the good shots you make – unless they claim them as their own. What they do remember is the misses, and the excuses given. That's why we hunt birds season after season.

I still remember the time I watched my brother somehow not touch a feather from a flock of about 200 mallards as they rose up from a pothole back in the marsh in front of our canoe – with three shots no less. Being able to place so many pellets in the small slivers of blue sky between them took real skill. But it was his excuses that really created

the legend.

They ranged from, "I was worried that they were lingering too long in their migration, so I decided to just hurry them along" to "I knew I should not have left those blanks in my ammunition box."

It was masterful, and perhaps the only reason why he keeps getting invited back to duck camp.

I mean that was a situation in which he had every right to say, "I have no excuses."

But he didn't. Instead, he regaled us with dozens of them and still does every time we remind him of that morning.

Just last week, when I brought it up again, he blamed a sudden and apparently violent crosswind between him and the massive flock that he missed three times. Three times I tell you.

My brother is an excellent shotgunner.

Are your dentures loose? *~ Don't settle for ill-fitting dentures!*

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Stars and Strype

Local singer celebrates 20 years of national anthems

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

It's been an adventure along the way, but Jennifer Strype has always stood out in a crowd.

Even a crowd of 42,000 people.

The Boshkung Lake local recently celebrated her 20th season of singing the national anthem for home-field Blue Jays games. She has also belted out *Oh Canada* for the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Toronto Football Club, and the Toronto Raptors games, to name a few. "Any team that's played in Toronto, I've sung for them," laughed Strype.

But Haliburton has always been home. "My parents bought a cottage up here when my mom was pregnant with me," she shared over coffee on a rainy Thursday afternoon. She reflected on her years of coming up here as a child, when the entirety of Boshkung would gather. Including the family of her future husband. "There are home videos of us together as kids," she giggled. "So of course we came back here."

While she grew up in Toronto and spent summers in the Haliburton Highlands, the COVID-19 pandemic allowed her to move to the place her heart felt full, and make it home at last. With a regular job in sales and logistics, Strype carries on her passion for theatre full-time.

Haliburton Highlands local Jennifer Strype sings the national anthem for the Toronto Blue Jays, and has sung for a variety of other Toronto-based sports games. /submitted

She attended school for singing, acting, and dancing, but left the program to join forces with her brother, and form a rock band. Strype would lead with vocals, with her brother taking on the majority of song-writing. They became well-known across the country, playing gigs in various locations around cities, and recording music for *Dawson's Creek* and *Joan or Arcadia*.

As the only woman of the band, Strype stood out, and stepped up to take on managerial components of the rock group. But while she loved the opportunity to sing for a crowd, the pressure of performing eventually got her down. "It wears on you," she said. "We both needed to step away for a bit. We needed a break from music."

She continued on her journey of following her passion for musical theatre and song, but noted that she struggled with auditions along the way. "Auditions are hard," Strype laughed. "I think I perform well, but I am not sure if I audition well."

But then came her big break. An opportunity to record a song for the Blue Jays anthem. "And they picked me," she said with pride.

That was 20 years ago. Nowadays, Strype performs for 10 to 12 games a season, generally twice a month. She noted that one of the best parts about growing with an organization is seeing how it shifts and evolves over the years. "There are so many women in high positions now within that organization," she said. "And that's the coolest thing to see. That was never the case before."

As a numbers person, Strype was interested in seeing how many individuals she has performed in front of during her 20 year career of anthems in the city. In total, she predicts it to be upwards of 5.6 million people. "I used to get nervous, for sure," she said. "But 287 games later, now it's just the norm for me."

This season, with the Blue Jays playing well, over 42,000 viewers have been in the crowd. When asked how she prepares to sing in front of such an enormous audience, Strype laughed. "I do so much prep for two minutes and fifty seconds of singing," she said, noting that she gives herself a few hours to hydrate, apply makeup, and practice singing drills.

But it keeps her flame for performing burning bright. "Hearing that crowd, picking up on their energy, it just ignites your soul," Strype shared with a passion.

While she still travels to the city for big games, Strype is happily settled in the Haliburton Highlands, returning to her roots on Boshkung Lake. She has recently joined the board for the Highlands Summer Festival, and is eager to find ways to apply her skill-set and experience to the organization. "I want to move it forward," she said. "It's so great, and I've always loved theatre, always loved musical theatre. I am excited to see what we can do."

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Writing on the Senior Side

Grab the moments that matter

GAIL STELTER

County Life Contributor

We are sometimes laughing and loving.
We are sometimes secretly sick.
We are sometimes seduced by sadness.
We sometimes soar on invisible wings
We sometimes slip into the abyss.
We sometimes wonder
Are we running out of time?
We, who live on the senior side.
We sometimes ponder
What is important? What is right?
What is our moment to grab and hold tight?

There is a song by the Tragically Hip called *Ahead by a Century*. I was introduced to the Hip by my children at the campfires at our first one-room cottage. I am in awe of the poetry of Gord Downey. In *Ahead by a Century*, he tells us that this is our life and that there is no dress rehearsal. Is it a gentle reminder or a profound challenge?

What are we doing to grab the moments that are important to us? This is the story of grabbing a moment that piqued my interest and called me to come and experience.

Peter and I decided to take a day trip to the big city to visit the Titanic Artifact Exposition. We are drawn to the history and the stories of the people who lived through it. I wanted to see this exhibit as I felt a connection to the Titanic. Perhaps it was seeing the movie in the theatre at a time when I was recovering from a long illness. Yes, the fragility of life was high in my consciousness.

I do know it was a connection born out of the impact, or better yet, the non-impact the Titanic had on my existence. I discovered, thanks to my cousin, that my mother's parents - my grandparents - had tickets for the Titanic, but for some reason didn't go. We don't know why they changed their minds. Later, they travelled on the Lusitania and arrived safely. The Lusitania was sunk by a German U-boat on one of its return voyages. If my grandparents had been on the Titanic, I would not exist. If the Lusitania had been sunk on its way to America, I would not exist. Fate is unique, interesting and sometimes scary.

My connection also comes from a story I wrote as a writing assignment for a course. The task was to put yourself in a real event, etc. My story is called Margaret on the Titanic. In preparation for writing this story, I researched the Titanic and added true details. I also borrowed some from the movie. You can read Margaret on the Titanic on my writing website: mgailstelter.ca.

Every time I buy tickets for a special event taking place on a specific day and time, I remember the day of the boat cruise on the intercoastal waterway from Hilton Head, SC to Savannah, GA. We had read the book Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil and were excited. Damn, I didn't sleep the night before. I didn't let it stop me, but it sure slowed me down, and as I put my head down on a table for the entire cruise back to Hilton Head, all I wanted was to close my eyes and be in my bed.

I hoped there would not be a repeat. I considered booking the Titanic for our wedding anniversary, but that was a Sunday and we decided a mid-week drive would be better and there would be fewer people at the event. I prayed that I would sleep the night before.

My oh my, what a pleasant surprise. I had a wonderful night's sleep. Peter also had a great sleep. I felt elated. Nothing would spoil this outing. I forgot I hate city driving. Oh well, Peter is the driver and he is never worried about city traffic. I sort of forgot that my shortness of breath has become part of who I am. I would pace myself and rest when breathing dictated. I refused to miss out on the moments that matter to me. Living on the senior side, at least for me, means ailments, and I refuse to let them keep me from the joys and doing what I want to do.

When we arrived at the entrance to the exhibit, we were given passports: permission to come aboard the Titanic. I thought it was just a gimmick that served as proof of payment. Later, I turned it over and read that I was a passenger on the Titanic. I was 62 years old, Mrs. Isidor Straus (Roslie Ida Blun.) I was travelling first class with my husband, Isidor, my maid, Ellen Bird and our manservant, John Farthing. We were going to New York, where we lived and owned Macy's Department Store. Peter was 23-year-old Richard George Hocking. He was travelling second class with his mother, two sisters and his nephews, who were three years and 10 months old. His destination was Akron, Ohio. Later, as we made our way through the artifacts, we came to a wall display of the names of everyone on the Titanic and how they fared. We found out what happened to us. Riveting.

Each room/exhibit area had numbers on the wall. We had our audio devices, which hung around our necks until needed. We entered the number corresponding to the number on the wall and listened to the incredibly informative stories and personal accounts of the Titanic. At the grand staircase, a guide explained the materials, etc., and we had our picture taken. All in all, it was a wonderful exposition, but the best was yet to come.

By the time we got to the virtual experience, I was very short of breath. I knew I was fine, but the two young men working at this experience seemed concerned. I could imagine them saying, "don't let the old lady die on our watch." Neither Peter nor I had ever worn the virtual headsets before, and I found it a little unnerving. The young man said, "Just remember you never leave this square empty room. If you want to stop, just put your hand up and say help." Okay, I tell my brain this, but it doesn't listen. I am holding Peter's hand so tight, and I feel that if I let go, I will be lost forever. The ship is falling to the bottom of the ocean. I am going into different rooms. That step makes me nervous. I am running down a hallway and speeding across the bow. Wow. At one point, this "voyage" makes me wobbly. Peter asks if I am alright, and I feel the hands of the young man on my back keeping me steady. I am fine. Wow. It was amazing. The two young men at the virtual experience were caring and wonderful. How great is that!

A six-hour drive there and back and a long day, but so worth it. I saw an event that mattered to me and reached out to grab the moment and make the most of my senior life. I hope you will find these moments too.

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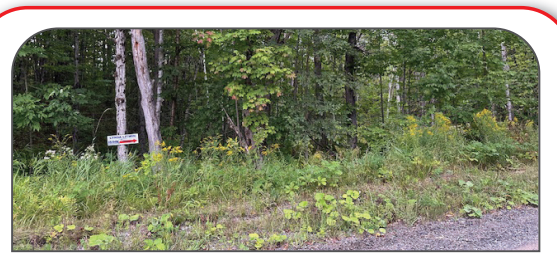

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Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Perspective

KIDS ARE able to give us many things.
Lately, it's been running noses and a healthy dose of sleep deprivation.
But there are other things.
Something I've noticed lately is a shift in perspective.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

My son has recently entered the peak toddler era. He's a mile a minute, at any given time, with emotions that swing faster than he can swipe his entire dinner plate off the counter-top (that's really, really fast.)

And logically, I understand the mood swings. His brain is in the very early stages of development; bits and pieces fighting and fusing into place, the building blocks of his being taking shape.

But I think there's more to it than brain development. Because when I get down on his level, the world looks different.

Everything is bigger, taller, a little scarier. The majority of the people he spends his days with are lightyears taller than him; all conversing with each other, high above his head.

What a world to live in, being on a different level than everyone else.

This is a topic that has started coming up in the accessibility world, as well. We live in a culture that caters to the able-bodied, with sinks, doorways, keyboards, and chairs; every day trades and tools, built for only a select population.

Regulations are starting to be put in place. Demanded, and with good reason, by the government in an effort to make the world available and accessible for all. It's taking a while, but it takes consideration and an ability to see a world that spans beyond your own to force change, even if the change is entirely necessary.

That's not something that comes easily to everyone. Empathy and understanding seem to be going extinct. We live in our siloes, focusing on our own thoughts, our own experiences, our own gains.

But the colourful and complicated world lives beyond the boundaries of our being. And the sharpness with which this world has been built can be whittled away with an effort to colour outside the lines, to shift our very perspective into the eyes of someone different, someone new, someone just trying their best.

It's not just kids who offer a shift in perspective. Getting down to pet my dogs made me realize that they spent their lives smaller than us, even with those big personalities. And sometimes it's not a physical shift in perspective, it can be emotional, as well. People offer different perspectives at each age and stage in their lives. There are new angles seen based on experiences, on accomplishments, on wins and losses within each chapter. There is much to learn from those who walked before us, and sometimes even more from those following our footsteps.

One day, I know my son will likely tower over me. But for now, he spends his days with his neck craned upwards, clinging onto the whispers and words of the people in his orbit, circling lightyears above his head.

With that in consideration, I've been making an effort to bring things to his level. A shelf with his toys that he can reach, a hanger next to ours, but a few inches from the floor, where he hangs his fall jacket and lines up his shoes next to our own. A blanket fort with a door his height, windows within his range.

He lights up. A world, created, just for him. For his size, his abilities, his perspective. And when the feelings get too big, I make sure to make myself little; crouching down so we see eye-to-eye, where we are able to hug without stretching, pause without reaching.

All we needed was a little shift in perspective, to see a whole world in front of us.

Top 10 reasons why a man won't go to the doctor

WE ALL know that men only visit the doctor when absolutely necessary. Nothing short of being trampled by a herd of stampeding elephants will induce most men to visit their doctor, in fact. Here are the top 10 reasons why:

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Knows full well his finger will grow back in no time.
2. Definitely not because of any fear of needles.
3. Regardless of the amount of blood loss, parking fee is too high.
4. Hates making sucking chest wound story all about himself.
5. Refuses to wear post-injury helmet again.
6. Does not want to admit he threw back out by chewing on wrong side of mouth.
7. Unrealistic fear of accidental colonoscopy.
8. Doctor does not use easily understood medical terms like "boo boo."
9. Knows they are never going to give that fishing lure back.
10. Requires cleaner underwear.

Fraying

Nails of Rain impaling the earth, drenching grass, brittle as straw,
sunflowers bending their necks toward the ground as Rain pounds their yellow petals,
their round faces peering down at the leaves pasted to the street, rusting, early, on their branches,
Wind untethering them from their trees as fall creeps around the edges of late summer, seeping into Air as it sleeps,
snatching its warmth, awakening to Rain drumming on the window pane like fingers trying to get inside,
fall, prying the door open, ready to pounce, as summer quivers and frays, yearning to stay,
to drift through the days, gentle as breeze whispering in the trees,
sunlight lengthening their shadows on the grass, fall's shadow lurking around every corner,
a sudden gust of Wind, a burst of Rain that stops as abruptly as it begins,
staining the leaves on their trees that loosen, soundlessly, from their branches and land on the grass or on the street,
some of their faces, still green, a single vein bleeding in the centre of a leaf, the leaf,
not ripened to wholeness,
as I pick it up in the middle of the street, nails of Rain hammering the roof of my green umbrella,
Wind crumpling two of its spokes as I shelter myself and the leaf from Rain,
peering down at its face that lays in my hand, tracing the vein that runs through its centre,
fall bleeding into summer,
its drumbeat growing louder as I round the corner and see patches of yellow leaves tarnishing the crowns of their trees,
some of them, rusting already, watching as one of them floats toward the ground, lashed by Wind and Rain,
landing face down on the sidewalk, where feet will tread across it, rushing to get somewhere,
I cower beneath the roof of my crumpling umbrella, as I release the bleeding leaf onto a patch of grass,
where it will be joined by other leaves, falling early from their trees, wishing summer would linger longer,
blades of grass receiving Rain that they craved all summer long, seeping deep beneath the earth
to drench the roots of trees, those that are still Alive, that survived the wildfires that raged and ravaged all summer long,
their leaves feeling twinges of fall as they yellow and rust and bleed on their branches,
not even this day of Rain can revive them again, as they loosen from their trees,
late summer Air cradling them as they fall, the sunflowers growing on the corner,
bending their necks as their petals are pelted by Rain, their round faces peering down at the ground,
shrouding a yellow leaf that lands on the grass, as Rain streams down from morning Sky,
drowning summer Sun.

Sylvie Kalenda

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GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE GLECOFF'S FAMILY STORE

Local businesses support Run for the Cure

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

A number of the raffle prizes available at the Haliburton CIBC. Staff encourage everyone to come in to participate in the local fundraiser. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Some may have noticed the local CIBC donning dashes of pink these days.

That's because the Haliburton branch has committed to fundraising for the annual Run for the Cure; a dedicated initiative across the country.

"This is our first time doing an in-person raffle since before Covid," said Tiffany Beemer, a client service representative of CIBC, and the local organizer behind the cause. "One hundred per cent goes directly towards Run for the Cure."

The raffle is linked to an annual run, which takes place in October each year. Last year, over 46,000 participated in the run across the country, with over $507 million raised for breast cancer research since 1992. With one in eight women diagnosed with breast cancer at some stage in their lives, Beemer believes the cause is highly important.

"My grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer last year," she shared. "And she's doing well now, but it's still scary. It definitely hits a little harder now. So that's my reason. She's my reason."

On top of the local raffle, Beemer also intends to run in October for the cause. There are several runs happening nearby, including Peterborough and Oro-Medonte.

To support the cause locally, Beemer went to individual businesses around Haliburton, seeking donations for the raffle prizes. "Everyone was great," she said. "They all wanted to get involved." Beemer and the CIBC staff organized the raffle prizes, and decorated the downtown building to encourage visitors to come in. "You don't need to bank with CIBC to enter the raffles," said Beemer. Raffle tickets start at two dollars, and the opportunity to drop tickets into any desired prizes. The draw takes place Oct. 3. "All we need is a name and phone number," said Beemer.

The following businesses donated prizes for the raffle:

Foodland (signed Blue Jays picture), Up River trading Co. (canvas signs), RPM (airhead rebel tube), Outdoors Plus (knife set + hat), Mega Munch ($50 gift card), Burrito Guys ($50 gift card), Lockside (vase), SIRCH ($25 bistro card), Home Hardware (two Yetis), Rexall (perfume), Jug City (CN Tower décor x3), Handmade Hookers Crochet (Handmade desk plant, octopus, chill pill), Castle Antiques (Gift basket and gift card), Poquito Loco ($60 gift card), Maple Avenue ($50 gift card), Beer Store (branded merch), Canoe FM (gift basket/sweater/mug), Kozy Korner (gift set/book/mugs/hat/$25 gift card), Country Pickins ($25 gift card x2), Curry Motors (full oil change), A&W ($25 gift card and mug), Independent ($50), Glecoffs (tumbler), Juna ($50 gift card), Shoppers Drug Mart (beauty basket), Tim Hortons (Tumblers x3, coffee, reusable cups), Blush Hair Salon (hair care products), Subway (free platter), Mckecks (Sweaters x2), Needful Things (stuffed animal and gifts).

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The hustle and bustle of life

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

I OFTEN see a line on Facebook that says adulthood is saying that after this very busy week or month, things should smooth out, over and over again forever. I know I feel that way lots of times, fall in particular is always busy as things have been postponed from summer and conferences ramp up.

It is difficult sometimes to figure out the way forward with so many pressing demands. I often have to tell myself to do what I can reach, to plan ahead, to do what I can reach next. It is so easy to get overwhelmed with our calendars, errands, the appointments of family, and all the tasks.

I love a good to-do list, in fact, sometimes I feel better once I have crafted a good one so that I can start to see all the things I can reach. What tools do you use to keep on track? It seems like it piles on and on, and then on top of that we are reminded to take care of ourselves and seek balance. And what of our personal interests and pursuits, what about our down time and rest? I love to talk about all that can be found in community, but that rich connection takes time and attention also.

There is a quote attributed to John Lennon that says: "Life is what happens when we are busy making other plans." So many plans, are we leaving some space to just be, just listen, just connect? I know for sure that it is important, I know for sure that I have a hard time finding a balance with constant doing and a pace that is more aligned with being. Here is what I am thinking about today. This is all a great amount of pressure, do a good job, get it all done, be a great person, stay hydrated and find your personal Zen and growth potential. That is a tall order.

For today, let's just do the next thing, the thing that we can reach, the thing that is in front of us, and once that is completed we can look at what's next. For today, let's just focus on the person right in front of us, the environment we are in, lets focus on today and let tomorrow unfold. This is not a race or competition, it's just life, and it's often busy, but it is also full of wonder and challenge, and it is probably not slowing down next week either.

Nature *in your backyard*

Hummingbird perched by Debi Ireland

Blue heron by Debi Ireland

For more than 160 years, Indigenous children were forced into Indian Residential Schools.
September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to learn about the 150,000 childhoods lost to Canada's Indian Residential School system.
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Cheryl Smith
Sales Representative
705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

2430 HADLINGTON ROAD $885,000

This custom built (2022) home offers serene privacy and breathtaking forest views. The warm, rustic interior features natural wood finishes. Expansive windows fill the space, inviting the outdoors in. Enjoy tranquil mornings on the deck, and peaceful evenings surrounded by the quiet beauty of nature in every season. Massive garage for a workshop with lots of parking for large vehicles. Just under 10 acres.

Sue Sotiriou
Sales Representative
905-715-4569
sue-sotiriou.remax.ca

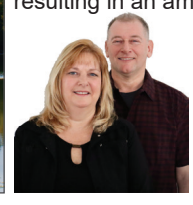
2166 BLAIRHAMPTON ROAD $529,000

1100 SQ. ft. 3 bedroom bungalow sits on private 5.5 acre lot in peaceville Blairhampton - cozy country kitchen and dining area - 4pc bath - new septic 2018 - full w/o basement unfinished - FA propane - 26' x 40' 2 storey garage - fully insulated - 2nd floor wide open and carpeted - FA propane heating

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

$2,900,000

Attention Naturalists, Adventurists, Investors & Developers! 222 beautiful acres of rolling Canadian Shield, located off Highway 35. Spring-fed waters of Cedar & Otter Lakes. Perfect opportunity to create a nature lover's retreat, a family hideaway, or further development. Surveyor's Draft Plan available, 12 multi-acre lots, with direct waterfront access. Road throughout for easy access. Years of planning have gone into this project, resulting in an amazing opportunity.



Ken Barry
Broker 705-754-5280
Jacquie Barry
Realtor® 705-457-0652
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Out Standing In Our Field

BUNGALOW ON 2 ACRES $557,900

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Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
Sales Representatives
705-935-1011
MovingTheHighlands.com

$599,000

1023 Chester Cres.
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Rick Forget
Broker
705-457-0580
haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

7 STOUFFER ST $399,999

Charming and fully renovated 2 Bedroom home (2024 updates)
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Includes 2024 SS kitchen appliances
Attached 2 Car Garage
Municipal water and sewers
Private yard with treed border
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Jackie Hardman
Sales Representative
705-879-8041
jackiedhardman@gmail.com

KUSHOG LAKE $799,000

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Spotless 4-season cottage, insulated guest cabin. 3-season sunroom w/cathedral beamed ceilings. Modern pine ceiling kitchen w/ skylight, living room w/wood stove & lg master bdrm. 124 ft of frontage. Deep water off dock's end,& walk-in entry. Lakeside deck & dock system, & firepit area and 4-person wood-fired barrel sauna! Solid concrete block foundation w/ crawl space, lake water w/ heated line, UV system, lg rear deck, low maintenance yard and building. new windows, exterior door, washer/dryer (2023+/-). New mudroom.

Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

GULL RIVER CLOSE TO MINDEN $565,000

- Boat to Gull Lake
- 2 Bedrooms
- 1 Bathroom,
- 3 Living Spaces,
- Updated Kitchen
- Quiet spot on the River
- Year Round Living

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

137 SOMERVILLE 11TH CONCESSION $895,000

- Beautiful 4 season, turnkey family home built in 2002
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- Main floor laundry
- 104 acres with a great trail system
- Attached double car garage with access into house
- Unfinished basement with 10ft ceilings
- Covered front veranda
- Private and surrounded by nature

Kelly Mercer
Broker
705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

GOODERHAM HOME $559,000

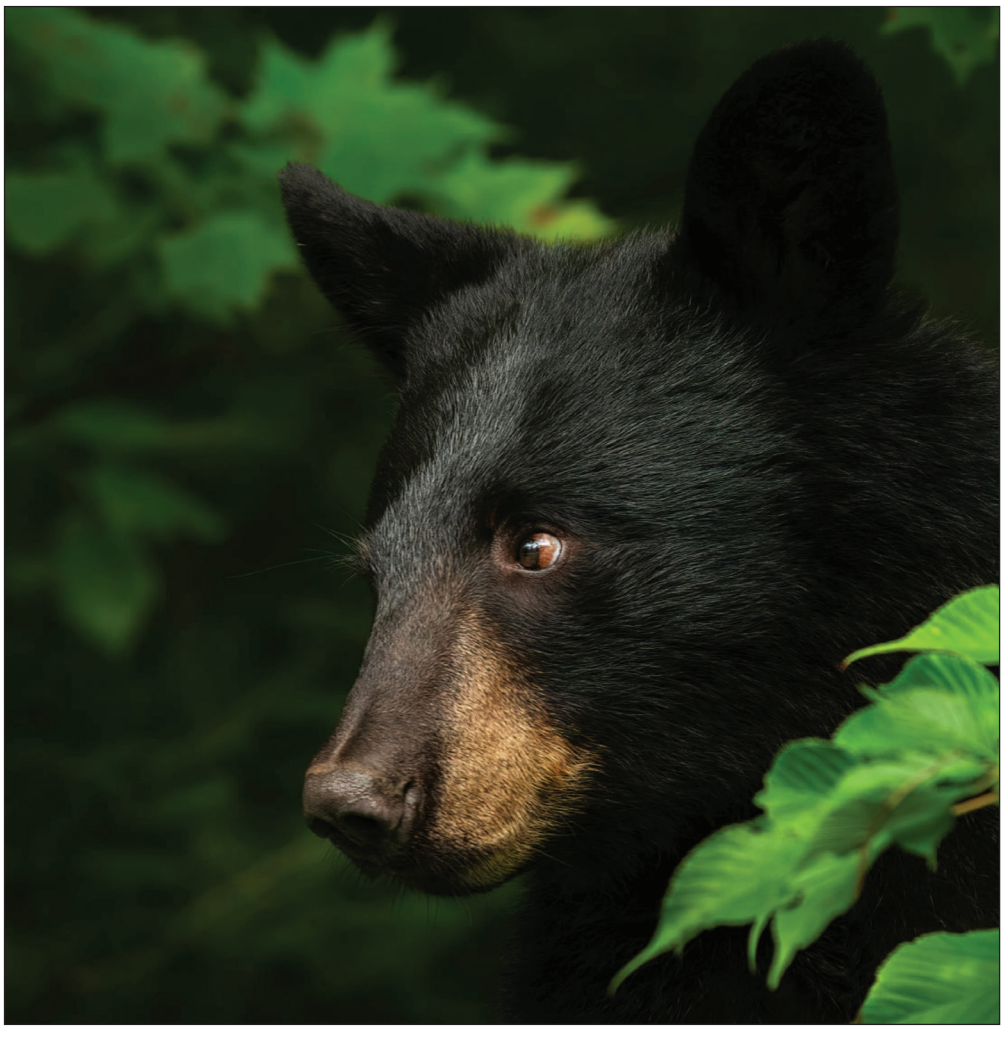
4+1 bedrooms, a grand living room featuring vaulted ceiling, a country-style eat-in kitchen, equipped with a propane stove and quartz countertops. Main floor includes a 4-piece bathroom, 2 bedrooms, upstairs features additional 3 piece bathroom & 2 more bedrooms & 1 more room on the upper floor. Newer propane furnace, windows, central air conditioning, propane BBQ hookup, Maibec siding, seamless eavestroughs, and a newer septic system. Underground hydro and a generator panel.

Lisa Mercer
Broker
705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca
lisa@lisamercer.ca

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Common Mergansers by Jill Moulton



Bear cub by Tammy Nash

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Chipmunk by Debi Ireland

Widow Skimmer by Randy Moratz

Fog on Dark Lake in Wilberforce by Vivien Mausz

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OUR PRICE $23,999

Plus HST & Licensing

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2021 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM STOCK #3060

AWD / PREVIOUS RENTAL / CLEAN CARFAX / 2.0L / LEATHER / HTD SEATS & STEERING / ADAPTIVE CRUISE / NAV / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE START / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!

OUR PRICE $24,999

Plus HST & Licensing

$101/WK

2022 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM STOCK #3063

AWD / CLEAN CARFAX / PREVIOUS RENTAL / 2.0L / LEATHER / HTD SEATS & STEERING / ADAPTIVE CRUISE / NAV / BACKUP CAM / REMOTE START / PWR WINDOWS/LOCKS/MIRRORS!

OUR PRICE $27,999

Plus HST & Licensing

$99/WK

2023 FORD ESCAPE PLATINUM STOCK #3055

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Plus HST & Licensing

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Plus HST & Licensing

$211/WK

2024 JEEP WAGONEER SERIES II CARBIDE STOCK #3045

PREVIOUS RENTAL / CLEAN CARFAX / 4X4 / HURRICANE TURBO / LEATHER / 8 SEATS / SUNROOF / APPLE CARPLAY / ADAPTIVE CRUISE / PWR LIFTGATE / HTD & COOLED SEATS!

OUR PRICE $65,999

Plus HST & Licensing

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Plus HST & Licensing

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Plus HST & Licensing

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OUR PRICE $29,999

Plus HST & Licensing

$133/WK

2023 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED STOCK 3067

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OUR PRICE $40,999

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2022 DODGE CHALLENGER SRT HELLCAT STOCK #3042

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2024 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L SUMMIT RESERVE STOCK #24209

CLEAN CARFAX / DEMO / 4X4 / V6 / LEATHER / HTD & COOLED SEATS / PREMIUM MCINTOSH AUDIO / HTD STEERING / ADAPTIVE CRUISE / PWR LIFTGATE / PANORAMIC SUNROOF!

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Plus HST & Licensing

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2021 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT XLT STOCK #3065

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OUR PRICE $27,999

Plus HST & Licensing

$180/WK

2023 RAM 2500 BIG HORN STOCK #3043

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OUR PRICE $55,999

Plus HST & Licensing

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2021 FORD TRANSIT T-250 LOW ROOF STOCK #3036

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OUR PRICE $29,999

Plus HST & Licensing

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2021 FORD TRANSIT T-250 HIGH ROOF STOCK #3016

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Watching

A doe loping past the slope of a hill, toward a tangle
of bushes and trees,
its fawn, following, slants of sunlight stroking their
coats, the fawn's still speckled with flecks of white,
its legs, thin as sticks, as it tails its mother, the pair
pausing at a bush to feast on its leaves,
the fawn reaching for a twig as its mother hovers
nearby, spotting me watching
from the shadow of a willow that grows in the park,
my feet rooted to the grass,
my eyes mesmerized by the litheness of the pair of
deer, how they suddenly appeared
at the top of the hill,
when I turned my head, prying my eyes away from
the old willow and its yellowing tresses,
drooping like string,
a gust of Wind blowing spears of its leaves from the
tree, fluttering through Air like wingless birds,
landing on blades of grass with the faintest scrape of
a sound, the doe's stillness drawing me deeper
into my own,
the black stones of its eyes, tinier than pebbles from
where I stand, boring right through me,
the doe, frozen, as its fawn nibbles on leaves, I don't
dare take a step, quieting my Breath,
as I stare at the doe that stares back at me, wonder-
ing whether my presence poses a threat
to their afternoon foraging and feasting, the fawn
devouring leaves, alongside the doe, that keeps peer-
ing at me,
as if I am interloping on their terrain, this park at the
top of the hill that slopes down toward a stream,
wondering whether the pair of deer drank from it
before they plodded up the hill, a mother and its fawn,
the father, gone, only the pair, sharing their days, 'till
the fawn grows and bounds out into the world
on its own,
feasting on leaves as its mother watches over it, its
eyes not leaving mine, as I mumble, Hello,
beneath the willow,
so softly, only Air hears, Wind slinking through its
branches, that droop toward the ground,
the sound of rustling in the bushes, as a third deer
appears, to join the pair,
its coat already fading to the grey of tree bark as it
bends its head to nibble on the branch of a bush,
drawing attention away from me, as the doe lopes
over toward it, grazing the fawn as it pauses,
that's still devouring leaves, I peer up at the willow,
its branches yellowing early this year, bathed in slants
of golden light,
the old willow, standing quiet and still, alongside
other willows that grow here in the park,
not as old as their matriarch that's missing a limb, its
tresses sparser than the others', drooping like string,
but still it stands to feel another fall, the Rain and
Wind storms that it brings,
I glance away from the old willow's limbs to peer
back at the three deer feasting on leaves, but all I see is
bushes and trees,
the fawn's white tail bobbing as it lopes back down
the slope of the hill, following its mother and the third
deer that appeared,
wondering whether they will pause to drink from
the stream, before they meander their way back Home,
and nestle beneath a tree, whether in a pair, or all
three, the forest canopying them
as they curl into sleep,
dreaming of a future feast.

Sylvie Kalenda

WINTER GUIDE IS COMING SOON!

To see your local free event
listed in our
Winter Guide Magazine, email
HaliburtonWinterGuide@gmail.com

The guide will include events that take place
in December 2025, and
January through April 2026.

Listing Deadline is October 10, 2025

The Echo Haliburton County · County Life · The Times Minden Ontario

IF YOU ARE NOT LISTENING TO CANOE FM ...

We want to know why

Canoe FM is your community radio station, and we're running a short survey to learn how we can serve our community better. Even if you don't listen to us, your feedback is just as important— we want to hear why.

Take a few minutes to share your thoughts and you'll be entered to
WIN A $250 GIFT CARD TO A LOCAL BUSINESS OF YOUR CHOICE.

Complete the survey at
www.canoefm.com/2025-listener-survey
or Scan the QR Code below

CANOE 100.9 & 97.1 FM
www.CanoeFM.com

Scan me for survey

Thank you for supporting Canoe FM - your community radio station. Your voice helps shape the future of community radio in Haliburton County.

Drought taking the fun out of peak fungi season

ADAM FRISK
County Life Staff

Chicken of the woods pictured in this 2024 file photo. /ADAM FRISK staff

The summer-long drought has taken its toll on trees, crops, some local businesses and now it seems to have taken the fun out of peak fungi season.

For many outdoor enthusiasts, foraging for mushrooms is an autumn tradition. This time of year is seen as peak fungi season, but for many shroom hunters, the forest isn't exactly popping with fruit.

"It's been a historic drought. I actually looked back at some of the records and I haven't seen any data anywhere that there's been seven weeks where we didn't have rain," outdoor educator Stephan Lukacic said in a Sept. 10 telephone interview. "And that has really negatively affected mushrooms. Mushrooms are like us, they're 95 per cent water, they need water."

For the month of August alone, the county saw only about 20 millimetres of rain, according to historical data from Environment And Climate Change Canada.

Lukacic explained that the mycelial network, which is the underground web of fungal threads within the forest floor and the organism that makes mushrooms, for it to even consider popping up a fruit, it needs that basic element - water.

"Looking at the data, we're short almost 50 per cent of our annual rainfall right now, what the forest should have had and that deficit is a big question mark," the avid forager said. "The forest is still very dry even though we had some decent rain. It's just soaking it up like a sponge and I'm still not seeing a ton of fungal activity."

Fungi play a crucial role in breaking down organic matter and recycling nutrients while supporting the health of trees, plants and a slew of other organisms. When fungal growth slows in a forest, it slows down tree growth, affects soil health and water retention and the overall health of the forest.

In autumn, that's when the forests usually produce a variety of species, from prized chanterelles and the common oyster mushrooms, to king boletes and the hen of the woods.

"Trumpets come this time of year," Lukacic said. "They usually come earlier but all my trumpet spots were dry as a bone, they didn't fruit at all over the summer."

The outdoor educator, who teaches an introductory course about foraging for wild edible mushrooms with Deep Roots Adventure, still remains hopeful for the fall mushroom season but said we simply need rain, and lots of it.

"It's a wild card. With climate change all of nature is upside down, everything is topsy-turvy," Lukacic said. "The migratory patterns are being affected, mushrooms, plants … plants are resilient and they can bounce back but mushrooms on the other hand, it's bad news, man."

If you are interested in learning more about wild mushrooms, Lukacic has two remaining identification courses left for the season, one on Sept. 27 and the other the following week on Oct. 4. Check out deeprootsadventure.com for more information.

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother's day breakfast $13.00/person
Friday night BBQ
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Special Events Only, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays: Sept. 29 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Sept. 24 Darts $4/player 2 p.m., Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cribbage League 6:30 p.m. – Sign up at the Legion
Thursdays: Sept. 25
Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m.
Sept. 25 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Fridays: Sept. 26 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, noon, Wings and Jam Session $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturdays: Sept. 27 Board Games 2 p.m., Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Sept. 28 Nacho Average Trivia Night 7 p.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Create a Fun Craft
When: Sept. 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
All ages are welcome. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a caregiver.

One-on-One Tech Help Session
When: Thursday, Sept. 25
Where: Minden Hills Library
Stuck on a tech problem? Need help navigating new software, setting up your devices, or troubleshooting an issue? Register for a 30-minute One-on-One Tech Help Session. Our tech expert will work with you individually to solve your tech challenges. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Cricut 101 Workshop
When: Friday, Sept. 26 from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Learn the steps required to design, cut, slice and score to get the most out of the cutting machine! This free, beginner-friendly workshop will guide you through the basics of using the Cricut machine and its software Design Space. All materials provided. Please bring a water bottle, cup or fabric swatch to apply the vinyl to.

Needle Felting Workshop
When: Friday, Sept. 26
Where: Dorset Library
Craft your own soft, colorful autumn leaves in this relaxing needle felting workshop. Using simple techniques, you'll create textured leaves-perfect as decorations or thoughtful gifts. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Meaningful Craft Activity
When: Sept. 23 to 27
Where: Any Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) branch
Join us for a meaningful craft activity in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to participate in the "Hearts & Hands" craft station, where participants can create an orange heart and trace your handprint to add to a community display wall as a symbol of commitment to reconciliation and learning.

Biography of a Woman
A Journey Through the Self Book Talk
When: Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to noon
Where: Dysart Library in Haliburton Village
Join author Susan Garrod-Schuster for an engaging talk about her book. This powerful true story follows Chau, a Vietnamese woman who fled her homeland as a refugee and rebuilt her life in Canada. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Registration preferred. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Free Curling - Come Try it Out
When: Saturday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Curling Club, 730 Mountain St. Haliburton
Haliburton Curling Club free "Try Curling" event at the club. No experience is necessary, and instruction will be provided. For more information and to register, visit www.haliburtoncurlingclub.com

Autumn Harvest Dinner/Dance
When: Friday, Oc. 3 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion
Doors open 5:30 p.m., Turkey/Ham dinner at 6:30 p.m. $40/person or $75/couple. Music by Gord Kidd & Friends / DJ Jamie Bacon. 50/50 Draw. Door Prizes. Call Linda 705-457-2064 for tickets.

Haliburton County Historical Society Annual Harvest Dinner
When: Saturday, Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Firefighter's Hall, 1095 North Shore Rd.
Tickets $30 each. Proceeds will go to the Rotary Club's Skyline Park Project. For tickets and information call 705-754-0427

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Despite provincial cuts

Board balances budget

by Ariel White

The Trillium Lakelands Districts School Board approved a balanced operating budget for the coming year at its regular board meeting last week despite almost four million dollars less than the projected funding allocation from the Ministry of Education and Training.

Retiring Superintendent Al Ingram presented the budget to the board at the Lindsay Education Centre last Tuesday. The budget includes a total grant allocation of $136,794,710 which is $3,671,955 less than the projected amount from the ministry. "This is a balanced budget as required by the province," said Ingram. He also noted that 64 per cent of the budget would be assigned to classroom spending, two per cent above the provincial requirement. The provincial definition of classroom spending, according to Ingram does not include administrators, support staff such as school secretaries, custodians or the contentious issue of teacher preparation time.

The area of technology is of concern to Ingram as well. He feels that the province did not allocate acceptable support for computers in class-

(more on page 4)

Terry's helpers
Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students and staff provided refreshments at Haliburton's Head Lake Park during the High School's Terry Fox Run. HHSS principal Gary Brohman and teacher Paul Longo stopped momentarily for a break and photo opportunity. Pictured with them are, front row, from the left: Russell Snoddon, Stef Stevens and Lisa Burk. Back row: Chris Snoddon, Paul Longo, Krista Matysek, Gary Brohman, Nichole Sisco, Linda Brandon and Patti Brydon. For photos from the Minden Terry Fox Run, see page 17.

GO!

The waiting is almost over for Haliburton County residents anxious to see signs of activity at the two hospital building sites. Work is scheduled to begin this week on the long awaited projects.

Construction site superintendent

(more on page 3)

Policing costs could jump $250,000

by Jerry Grozelle

Staff Sergeant Andy Millar, along with OPP superintendents Chris Wyatt and Steve Ostrowski appeared before Haliburton County council Wednesday, September 23 to explain a proposed realignment of services that would see Haliburton County's policing costs jump by $250,000. Millar explained that the County of Victoria has asked the OPP to provide contract costing for the county, with the exception of Lindsay (and Ops Township, which has opted to buy its police services from the Lindsay Police Force). A five-year contract has been signed between Lindsay and Ops Township.

The Times contacted Victoria County Warden John Macklem, who said he was surprised when the announcement was made.

"We got back-doored," he said. "We were trying to negotiate a deal for the entire county. It's tough for us to know what our role is. There could be an interesting ripple effect."

Local police forces are only allowed by legislation to provide services to contiguous municipalities (those which border their jurisdiction). In order for the Lindsay force to provide police services to any other municipality outside the Town of Lindsay, it had to secure a contract with Ops, since Ops Township completely surrounds Lindsay. Ops was in an enviable position in that negotiation process.

Under the OPP proposal, police services between Victoria and Haliburton would become separated. The Lindsay and Coboconk offices would amalgamate, with the two being renamed Victoria Detachment. Administration for the entire county, excluding Lindsay and Ops, would be handled from the OPP office in Lindsay. The Lindsay and Coboconk offices would both remain as operational centres, with Coboconk covering the northern part of the county.

Victoria County would benefit from a lower cost of administration, with one detachment commander reporting to the governing body; a greater inte-

(more on page 12)

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Opportunity *Price Refresh*

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Opportunity *Price Refresh*

Kawartha Lakes — $1,479,000 — MLS X12182250 — 3 | 3

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Canning Lake — $924,900 — MLS X12146750 — 2 | 3

Long Lake — $899,990 — MLS X12176356 — 2 | 6

Just Sold *New Beginnings*

Kennisis Lake — $815,000 — MLS X12176356 — 2 | 3

Kennisis Lake — $795,000 — MLS X12169805 — 2 | 3

Beech Lake — $799,900 — MLS X12250094 — 2 | 2

Opportunity *New Listing*

Minden Hills — $749,000 — MLS X12398280 — 3 | 3

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Kennisis Lake — $725,000 — MLS X12347900 — 2 | 3

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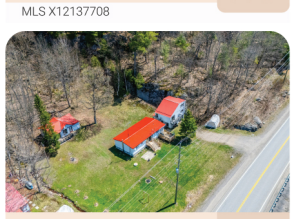

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